MISCELLANEOUS

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore.

1272. The zoo was open to the public throughout the year and recorded a number of 2,44,256 visitors.

Krishnarajasagara Section.

1273. The Brindavan Gardens maintained their popularity and reputation as a "Beauty spot" and several distinguished visitors in and outside India visited the famous gardens throughout the year.

Nandi Hill Station.

1274. The Nandi Hill Station continued to be a popular health and summer resort in the State. As a beauty spot it attracted large number of tourists.

1275. As a result of the intensive activities of the Department, there is a general horticultural awakening among the people and it is observed that more and more people are taking to cultivation of fruits and vegetables on a commercial scale as may be evidenced by the number of new gardens that have sprung up in many parts of the State and this has resulted in the increase of the out-put of vegetables and fruits.

(vi) Stores Purchase Committee.

1276. The total value of orders placed (including the approximate value of annual rate contracts) with firms in India during the year amounted to about Rs. 3,08,45,562 as against Rs. 2,65,43,593 in the previous year. The total value of orders placed with firms in foreign countries amounted to Rs. 76,47,262 as against Rs. 54,96,336 in the previous year. The total value of all purchases arranged by the Stores Purchase Committee both from firms in India and in foreign countries during the year amounted to Rs. 3,84,92,824 as against Rs. 3,20,39,929 in the previous year. The fluctuation in prices in respect of a good number of materials continued as in the previous year. The number of ex-stock offers was small. The tendency towards enhancement of prices and delays in delivery continued and the prices quoted by foreign firms were not firm and were generally subject to "Price Variation Clause". Most of the requirements of Government Departments were met by or through indigenous firms.

1277. The sale proceeds of the Tender Forms during the year amounted to Rs. 54,741-8-0 as against Rs. 47,170 in the previous year.

1278. The total expenditure on the establishment salaries, advertisements and contingencies, etc., of the office of the Stores Purchase Committee including the contribution of Rs. 4,000 paid to the Mysore Trade Agent's Office in London amounted to Rs. 80,820 and the incidence of cost worked to '209 per cent as against '22 per cent during the previous year.

1279. Messrs. Best & Co., Ltd., Madras, were the Clearing and Forwarding Agents for Mysore. Their Agency was terminated with effect from 1st July 1955 and competitive offers were invited from reputed firms at Madras, Messrs. South India Corporation (Agencies) Ltd., Madras, offered their services at more favourable and advantageous terms than other firms and therefore the agency was entrusted to them. The total tonnage of consignments imported and exported by the agents during the year was 5,431. The total expenditure incurred including Customs duty, landing charges, harbour dues, commission and other incidental charges for the transport of consignments to their respective destinations amounted to Rs. 13,32,210-12-0 as against Rs. 15,87,242-13-11 in the previous year.

(vii) Public Service Commission.

1280. The Public Service Commission held 25 meetings for the transaction of business which could not be disposed of by circulation. Apart from this, 96 meetings were held during the year for interview of candidates for selection for appointments to various categories of services and posts.

1281. The number and percentage of appointments held by Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Advanced Class in the Gazetted and non-Gazetted Services of the State as on 1st April 1955 were:—

—	Gazetted Service. Number	Gazetted Service. Percentage	Non-Gazetted Service Number	Non-Gazetted Service Percentage.
Backward Classes	1,014	62·90	34,266	65·36
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	42	2·61	3,280	6·25
Advanced Class	556	34·49	14,875	28·39
	1,612	100·00	52,421	100·00